

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus $[(100)]$ comprising:

a data storage unit $[(110)]$ for storing data files;

a memory $[(130)]$ for spreading data files, stored in the data storage unit, as necessary;

a user management unit $[(140)]$, preventing simultaneous multiple logon by a plurality of users by prohibiting, after a ~~predetermined~~ one user has performed a logon procedure to log on to with respect to said apparatus ~~to become a logged-on user~~, logon procedures by other users until a logoff procedure concerning said logged-on user is performed;

$[(an)]$ a spreading/storing unit $[(120)]$, executing, based on an operation of said logged-on user, a file spreading process of spreading a predetermined data file, stored in the data storage unit $[(110)]$, onto the memory $[(130)]$, and a file storing process of storing a predetermined data file, spread on the memory $[(130)]$, into the data storage unit $[(110)]$;

a program executing unit $[(150)]$, executing, based on an operation of said logged-on user, a predetermined application program and a process of preparing a new data file on the memory $[(130)]$ or a renewing process on an existing data file spread on the memory $[(130)]$;

a saving unit $[(160)]$, executing, when said logged-on user executes the logoff procedure, a saving object recognizing process of recognizing, from among data files stored in the data storage unit $[(110)]$, all or a predetermined portion of data files prepared or renewed based on tasks by said logged-on user as a saving object file or files, a saving

process of copying and thereby saving the saving object file or files into an external storage device [(300)] via a network [(200)] regardless of an amount of available memory space in the data storage unit, a deleting process of deleting the saving object file or files stored in the data storage unit [(110)], a management information preparing process of preparing management information necessary for copying and restoring the saving object file or files, saved in the external storage device [(300)], into the data storage unit [(110)], and a management information storing process of storing the prepared management information into an external storage location [(400)]; and

a restoring unit [(170)], executing, as necessary after a specific logged-off user executes [(the)] another logon procedure, a restoring process of referencing the management information and thereby copying and restoring the saving object file or files, saved in the external storage device [(300)], into the data storage unit, [(110)] such that the saving object file or files prepared or renewed based on tasks by said specific user are present in the data storage unit only when said specific user is logged on.

2. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus [(100)] according to Claim 1, wherein

the restoring unit [(170)] executes a preliminary restoring process of restoring a hierarchical structure of data files at a time of storage, and a main restoring process of restoring a specific data file selected from within the hierarchical structure restored by the preliminary restoring process.

3. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus [(100)] according to Claim 1, wherein

the saving unit [(160)] recognizes a data file that is stored in a ~~priority~~ previously

determined saving object folder as being the saving object file.

4. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus (100) according to Claim 1, wherein

the saving unit [(160)] recognizes a data file, having a file name with a ~~priority~~ previously determined extension attached thereto, as being the saving object file.

5. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus [(100)] according to Claim 1, wherein

the saving unit [(160)], in executing the management information storing process, stores the management information into a removable, portable information recording medium [(400)], and

the restoring unit [(170)], in executing the restoring process, references the management information stored in the portable information recording medium [(400)].

6. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus [(100)] according to Claim 1, wherein

address information on the external storage device that is to be a saving destination of the saving object file is used as the management information.

7. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus [(100)] according to Claim 1, wherein

the saving unit [(160)] executes, in executing the saving process, a process of dividing a saving object file into a plurality of division files based on a predetermined dividing method and saving the individual division files respectively into mutually different

storage devices (~~310, 320, 330~~) and has a function of preparing management information that includes information indicating the predetermined dividing method, and

the restoring unit ~~[(170)]~~ restores the saving object file based on the information indicating the predetermined dividing method that is included in the management information.

8. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus ~~[(100)]~~ according to Claim 1, wherein

the saving unit ~~[(160)]~~ executes, in executing the saving process, a process of saving a saving object file into the external storage device ~~[(300)]~~ upon encrypting the file based on a predetermined encrypting method and has a function of preparing management information that includes information indicating the predetermined encrypting method, and

the restoring unit ~~[(170)]~~ restores the saving object file by executing a decrypting process based on the information indicating the predetermined encrypting method that is included in the management information.

9. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus ~~[(100)]~~ according to Claim 1, wherein

in executing the deleting process, the saving unit ~~[(160)]~~ performs a process of deleting even a saving object file that is spread in the memory.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium including a program that makes a computer function as the information processing apparatus ~~[(100)]~~ according to Claim 1.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for ensuring security of data according to each individual user when an information processing device $[(100)]$, comprising:

a data storage unit $[(110)]$ for storing data files;

a memory $[(130)]$ for spreading a data file, stored in the data storage unit, as necessary;

a user management unit $[(140)]$, preventing simultaneous multiple logon by a plurality of users by prohibiting, after a ~~predetermined one~~ user has performed a logon procedure to log on to ~~with respect to said device to become a logged-on user~~, logon procedures by other users until a logoff procedure concerning said logged-on user is performed;

a spreading/storing unit $[(120)]$, executing, based on an operation of said logged-on user, a file spreading process of spreading a predetermined data file, stored in the data storage unit $[(110)]$, onto the memory $[(130)]$, and a file storing process of storing a predetermined data file, spread on the memory $[(130)]$, into the data storage unit $[(110)]$; and

a program executing unit $[(150)]$, executing, based on an operation of said logged-on user, a predetermined application program and a process of preparing a new data file on the memory $[(130)]$ or a renewing process on an existing data file spread on the memory $[(130)]$;

is shared by a plurality of users, the method for ensuring security in information processing apparatus ~~being characterized in~~ making the information processing apparatus $[(100)]$ perform:

a saving step of executing, when said logged-on user executes a logoff procedure, a saving object recognizing process of recognizing, from among data files stored in the data storage unit $[(110)]$, all or a predetermined portion of data files prepared or renewed based

on tasks by said logged-on user as a saving object file or files, a saving process of copying and thereby saving the saving object file or files into an external storage device [(300)] via a network [(200)] regardless of an amount of available memory space in the data storage unit, a deleting process of deleting the saving object file or files stored in the data storage unit [(110)], a management information preparing process of preparing management information necessary for copying and restoring the saving object file or files, saved in the external storage device [(300)], into the data storage unit [(110)], and a management information storing process of storing the prepared management information into an external storage location [(400)]; and

a restoring step of executing, as necessary after a specific logged-off user executes [(the)] another logon procedure, a restoring process of referencing the management information and thereby copying and restoring the saving object file or files, saved in the external storage device [(300)], into the data storage unit, [(110)] such that the saving object file or files prepared or renewed based on tasks by said specific user are present in the data storage unit only when said specific user is logged on.

12. (Original) The security ensuring method according to Claim 11, wherein

the restoring step comprises a preliminary restoring step of restoring a hierarchical structure of data files at a time of storage, and a main restoring step of restoring a specific data file selected from within the hierarchical structure restored by the preliminary restoring step.

13. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium including a program that makes a computer execute the saving step and the restoring step of the security ensuring method according to Claim 11.